

6 Navy vol 3.

THE
ROYAL NAVY-MEN'S
ADVOCATE.

WHEREIN,

From a COLLECTION of several original
and authentic TRACTS,

ARE FULLY SET FORTH

The **Corrupt** Practices of Victualling
the ROYAL NAVY.

To which is PREFIX'D,

An Account of the Author's Character and
Conduct,

And SUBJOINED,

Some PROPOSALS for a better future Conduct.

Dedicated to WILLIAM BECKFORD, Esq; Alderman,
and Member of Parliament for the City of London.

BY

WILLIAM THOMPSON,

Citizen, in *Little Tower-Street*, and late inspecting Cooper of the
Pickle-yard of His Majesty's Victualling-Office, *London*.

L O N D O N :

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MDCCLVII.

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JOHN ALFRED MILES

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To the WORSHIPFUL

WILLIAM BECKFORD, *Esq;*

ALDERMAN, and Member of Parliament for
the City of *London*.

S I R,

BE pleased to permit me in the Sincerity of my Heart to join in the great Joy which all are unanimous in testifying, for having you one of the Representatives of this opulent City of *London*. These Sentiments, these warm Wishes flow from a thorough Conviction of your steady Attachment to, and faithful Guardianship of Truth and public Justice. The many and signal Demonstrations you have exhibited of the same on every important Emergency, whilst they fill with Esteem for you the Minds of all your Constituents, not only operate in me the like profound Respect, but also are powerful Motives to induce me to request for the following authentic Tracts, the Favour of your upright and truly spirited Patronage. Your Candour, your Disinterestedness, your Abhorrence of sinister Measures and Proceedings, your Desires of the public Welfare, will be a sufficient Sanction towards their being received as the ho-

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nest and uninfluenced Endeavours of a Person, whose sole Aim is to be instrumental to the saving of the Lives of Thousands of his Majesty's good and brave Seamen. So noble a Cause must inspire, with the liveliest Ardour, all Lovers of their Country, who, with you, will not fail to rise up in its Vindication ; and, by uniting their generous Efforts, will at last crush that Monster of Iniquity which has so long prevailed. It is not my Business to point out the Methods to be pursued in obtaining Justice for the flagrant Offence. Your consummate Prudence will direct you to the best, and when you have redressed the Grievance, you will receive the unfeigned Thanks of all true *Britons* ; but of none more, than of

Your most obliged, and most

Humble Servant,

W. THOMPSON.



I am in Charity with all Men.

THE material Instances contained in this Treatise of the corrupt Practice of victualling the Royal Navy, I solemnly before this sacred Altar of my God, declare to be true, and Matters of Fact. So help me God. As I hope through the Merits of my Saviour JESUS CHRIST to inherit Everlasting Life.

So help me all good Men, that may assist in this great Cause I have undertaken.

Of this also do you, Reverend Doctor, take Notice.

Jan. 2, 1757. **WILLIAM THOMPSON,**
*Wine-Cooper, of the Parish of St.
Margaret Pattons, London.*

P R E S E N T.

HENRY DEAN, *Church-Warden.*
NEWBRO SWINGLAND, *Parish-Clerk.*

Who declared that they would take Notice of my receiving the Sacrament in Confirmation of the above Truth.



T H E

Royal NAVY-MEN's Advocate.

April 1745.

Messieurs JONAS MALDEN, and JAMES LAWRENCE of Maldon in Essex, Aldermen, to the late THOMAS REVELL, Esq;

S I R,

I F your chief Cooper Mr. *William D—s* should be dismissed for his Misbehaviour, of which it is said he is accused, we should be very glad if Mr. *William Thompson* (now an under Cooper in your Office) could be approved of by your Honour as a proper Person to succeed him. 'Tis with great Submission we concern ourselves in this Affair; but as the young Fellow was born amongst us, and is the Son of a Clergyman (a good Scholar and Christian) who was formerly a Friend of ours, we think ourselves obliged to do what we can to serve him; and as we are perswaded he will come sufficiently recommended by the Gentlemen he has wrought for in Town, we heartily wish he may meet with your Favour, which will add to the many Obligations you have already laid on,

Your most humble Servants,

JONAS MALDEN.
JAMES LAWRENCE.

This

This is to certify to all whom it may concern, that William Thompson has been employed by us as under-written, behaving himself not only as a Proficient in his Trade, but sober, diligent, and faithful to our great Satisfaction, and worthy the Favour of the greatest Trust in any public Station as a Cooper, or a Clerk; as a Testimony of which we are ready to be Securities for his Fidelity in any Consideration required. Witness our Hands,

GEORGE WOODS, Eastcheap, Indentured Master.

ARTHUR HARDING, late of Tower-street, Merchant.

THOMAS STEVENS, late of Lime-street, Cooper to the Hon. East-India Company.

STEPHEN TYERS, Eastcheap, Cooper in the West-India Trade.

JOSIAS CARLTON, Greenwich, Cooper to the Hon. Board of Ordnance.

6 June, 1745.

William Thompson to Thomas Revell, Esq; at Leatherhead.

Honourable Sir,

OBSERVING your Concern for the Badness of Stores in the Flesh Branch on a late Survey, and no one being able to account for it; with humble Submission, I beg Leave to offer my Opinion, as you shall please to require, partly believing the Causes are rather owing to Ignorance in the Directors of the said Branch, than to Wilfulness; therefore hope what I may discover will not be a Means of hurting any one; I only desire to be instrumental to a general Good, without prejudicing the least Individual: Should it prove otherwise, it will be the most sensible Affliction I ever felt.

This Presumption I hope you will forgive, and suffer me to subscribe myself

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

W. THOMPSON.

The late Thomas Revell, Esq; to William Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON,

9 June, 1745.

I HAVE received your Letter, but not being able to come to Town, would have you go to Mr. H—l, whom I have wrote to, to hear you on the Contents of yours to me.

I am your Friend,

T. REVELL.

Complied with Mr. H—l sending for me.

11 June, 1745.

William Thompson to the late Thomas Revell, Esq;

Honourable Sir,

I Beg Leave to acquaint you with my presenting the H—C— H—l with some Reasons for Mistakes in the Flesh Branch, and with all Humility entreat your Leave to recommend the following Method to prevent them, which is submitted to your Honour's great Wisdom and Goodness, by

Your most humble Servant,

W. THOMPSON.

A Method to rectify some Mistakes in the Flesh Branch.

SALTERS provided with larger packing Cloths will prevent the Dirt of their Shoes mixing with the Flesh; and when mistaken in their Tale, by having Sail Cloths to turn the Flesh out upon, will prevent much Nastiness being shovell'd up with the Flesh, as is the Case when turned upon a dirty Floor.

Casks

Casks should be well made, and of good sound Timber, and Hoops free from Mould, or putrid filthy Stenches ; and when filled, should be placed under Cover : for by being kept dry, they will be hooped with less Fatigue to the Cooper, and will be less subject to leak, than when sodden with Rain and Snow, and besmear'd with Dirt, Blood, and the Excrements of Oxen and Hogs. What is still worse, many hundred Casks being exposed to the Weather, during the whole slaughtering Season, and one, two, or three Months usually expiring before they are cooper'd and made tight, not only hurts the Casks, but the Flesh also : for as in strong Winds and Suns the Casks shrink (the Joints being then more open) the Wind and Sun more forcibly convey themselves into the Flesh, which dries up its Juices, and makes it rusty ; and when Snow or Rain falls, the wider the Joints of the Casks are, the faster the Snow and Rain will penetrate, and gradually render the Flesh somewhat fresh by divesting it of its Salt : This makes it soft and flabby, and hastens its Decay.

It is necessary the Labourers should take the Casks to and from the Coopers as they hoop them. This will be a Means to enable the Coopers to perform much more Work with less Fatigue, and will be a great Step towards preventing the Casks being exposed to the Weather. It would be also advisable to set aside many superfluous Hoops, several of them being not only useless, but a wasteful Expence to the Crown, and a Loss of Time to the Cooper. A very material Advantage will thereby accrue to the Flesh, if as soon as the Cooper has finish'd his Cask, the Labourer on taking it immediately away, should draw the Bung, and lay it down to drain. Then it will easily be perceived whether the Cask has a clear Vent ; for if a Piece of Meat should lodge in the Bung-hole (as it often does) the Deficiency will be better known, and more readily rectified. Besides, every Cask must by so doing be well drained : for ninety or one hundred of them being laid down together, it will be impossible to discover an Accident of this Sort. If the Bung Holes should chance to be clear, yet the Drains may be, and often are stopped, by the Wells they discharge themselves into being full of stinking Brine, which choaks up the Bung Holes of many of them, the Brine in the Drains reaching thereto : and for Want of Air, Casks are not half drain'd, some not at all, the Labourers leaving them without any farther Care. Oftentimes
Labourers

Labourers turn them up for Pickling before they have lain long enough to drain, yet it is taken for a general Rule, that when they are turned up, though with all the above Faults, they are sufficiently prepared to be filled up with Pickle. By these Mistakes the bloody Brine remains in the Casks, and in Proportion to its Quantity, flags by its softer and raw Juices, the Strength of the Pickle, and gives it a strong and rank Smell, to the Prejudice of the Flesh. But they had better not be drained at all, than be wrought up again out of stinking putrified Receptacles, to be made Pickle of, which no Practice can prevent, but by having them well leaded, and emptying and cleansing the same once a Week ; because the Timber of the Wells is so impregnated with foul Stench, as scarce ever to be radically extracted. Another Reason for the Unfitness of the Pickle made out of these Wells, and the Cause of their intolerable Stench, is the Filth of Pot-scummings, Urine, and Nastiness of various Sorts flowing into them, and mixing with the Brine : Add to this, the Want of Air to make these noxious Smells evaporate. It is likewise observable, that Pickle made of this Brine, when boiled, produces a large and heavy Scum, and if not carefully attended to, when the Scum begins to rise, it suddenly falls and sets too, giving the Pickle a Smell like burnt Milk : At the best, it is of a thick and Whey Colour, and has been known to stink in the Backs before it was used (27 May 1745) being but fourteen Days standing. Bing Brine would be free from any Inconveniencies, was there a Well made nearer. This Brine being only composed of the entire Juices of the Flesh and Salt, when boiled, rises with a light Scum, is of a sweet Smell, and quite transparent.

The Stillings cleared every Day, will prevent any Cooper charging more Work than he has performed ; and for Want of a due Observance of the aforesaid Methods, many more Mistakes arise, such as pickled, unpickled, and undrained Casks rolled away together, which, before stow'd up for Service, are examined, and if any Casks are supposed to have lost their Pickle, they are again filled up. Deficiencies of this Sort are often judged Leaks, but have too often been observed to be the Neglect of pickling, and are often stowed up unpickled, without any due Regard to these Oversights. Oftentimes Casks that are pickled are left on the Stillings, and through Hurry, or a different Set of Men, have been laid down to drain a second Time, with

those that have not been drained at all, to the Loss of great Quantities of the Pickle.

Casks should be sent to the *Red-House*, according as the Store-houses become full. They should also be always kept under Cover; otherwise the Sun and Winds acting without, and the Strength of the Pickle within the Casks, must compress the Pores of the Timber, and cause Leaks, to the great Waste of much Pickle, and Damage of the Flesh; which last, by losing its Nutriment, becomes dry and rusty, diminishes in Weight, and is more unwholsome to the Consumer. In short, the Shell and Salt of Flesh must thereby occasion inveterate scorbutick Disorders in the Seamen belonging to the Royal Navy.

The Offals should be taken out of the Slaughter-houses as soon as the Slaughter is over; for being suffered to remain till they stink, the purer Air infected, infuses its morbid Qualities into the fresh-killed Carcasses of the Oxen and Hogs, the Heat of which serving also to attract the corrupt Air, the same remains lodged therein when they grow cold. This in Part may be ascribed as one of the Causes of the stinking of 1500 Hogs in 1743. The Yards of the Slaughter-houses should likewise be kept clean, so much the more, as the Blood and Excrements of Oxen and Hogs not being cleared away in due Time, produce abominable Stenches.

Labourers should be appointed to discharge particular Sorts of Work, which if any one of them neglected, or absented himself from, it might easily be known who he was, by a slight View of those that were present on their appointed Station. By this Means, none would complain of doing more Work than another, or screen himself from his Duty, under the Pretence of being elsewhere employed in private Services of Clerks, &c. to the great Neglect of the King's Business; but each in his Province would do his Duty, and know when it was done.

Hoops, Twigs, &c. (lavishly and unnecessarily wasted) by proper Methods might be prevented.

EXTRACT of the *Viſtualling Board's Minute*,
dated 12 Aug. 1745.

AND that *William Thompson* one of the Pickle-yard Coopers, be employed in examining the Casks before the Flesh is packed up in them, to see they be without Defect,

fect, and fit for Use, and that they also be filled up with Pickle, and drove as aforesaid; in doing of which he is to lend a Hand, and be assisting as far as the supervising thereof will admit of.

A COPY. JAMES WOOD,
Clerk of the Cutting-House.

Tuesday the 10th of September, 1745.

Mr. WOOD, 6th, with his Report thereon read.

LET the antient Method of curing Flesh in this Office be henceforwards continued: And let *William Thompson* be continued as lately, in overlooking the Pack, and Pickling, and to have such other Charge of the whole as *William Mercer* used to have.

A COPY. HENRY PELHAM, *Sec.*

It is humbly submitted to Consideration, whether the two foregoing Orders of Board were not sufficient Warrants for my future Conduct, agreeably to what I set forth to the late Mr. *Revell*, 11 June 1745, (such Orders being never given to any one before) and whether it could be a just Sentence to discharge me, for having made it my business to prevent the sinister Practices so long subsisting.

'Tis true, I was the youngest Cooper on the Establishment, but this should not be a Reason for setting me aside, or opposing and making void my upright Intentions.

20 Jan. 1745.

Copy of Mr. James Wood's Report to the Victualling Board.

IN Obedience to your Honour's Minute, I have examined the defective Pickle in the Casks of Beef sent up from *Portsmouth*, from on Board the *Sally* and *Bedford* Victuallers bound for *Jamaica*, and considered from whence the Cause of its Defect should proceed; but I humbly pray Leave to assure your Honours, that were my Life at Stake, I can

give no real Reason for the Cause * (nor can the many Persons I have called in for their Opinion, give me the least Inlight thereto) unless the Pickle Boilers, contrary to the many repeated † Orders I have frequently given them, have not kept the Wells clean, and thereby boiled up the bloody Brine when too stale, which fermenting in the Ship's Hold, turned into the Condition it is in.

To fall under the Board's Censure by these unforeseen Accidents §, gives me the greater Trouble and Concern §§; for I can faithfully assure your Honours, that I have constantly given it in strict Charge to the several Persons employed under me, to use all possible Care to see the Wells, into which the bloody Brine runs, kept clean, and to have the bloody Brine boiled up into Pickle before grown too stale ††, and the Casks to be always drove and pickled in Time, and the Pickle, something of Consequence to be noted, made of due Strength, and that I have always had an Eye to the seeing the said Particulars performed, as much as the Multiplicity and different Parts of the Business would admit; and therefore, as it is impossible for me to be present (would it not have been better for to have said *convenient*) at the boiling of all the Pickle, and the driving and filling up the Casks, if the Persons to whom the said Particulars, by the Custom of the Office, have always been entrusted, and who must of Necessity have the Care of them under me (what Use is a Warrant Officer of, if he does not do his Duty, in seeing that others under him do

* See my Method of Mistakes to the late *Thomas Revell*, Esq; On Mr. *Wood's* Survey I shewed the same, and many times long before, but it was looked upon with Contempt.

† As an Officer, it might be expected that he would see his Orders obeyed, unless the Place was too cold or unwholsome.

§ It could not be unforeseen, when before fully demonstrated.

§§ That's true, being in briny Sorrow, when I brought the late Mr. *Brereton's* Orders, to inform him the Board had taken off his Suspension, he returned Thanks for the said late Mr. *Brereton's* Goodness.

†† A bare Order, without the Certainty of seeing it executed, has but little Merit, or Weight, when the Officer retires for three or four Days in a Week into the Country or more.

† What Use could those Orders be of, when all around his Office, in the Sight of all the Commissioners, and Hindrance of Business, with Damage of Flesh, many hundreds of Casks have been exposed to all Weathers uncoopered the whole Season
of

do theirs *) have failed in a due Compliance with the Directions I have so frequently given them; † I most humbly hope, that the Neglect will not be imputed to me ‡, as I could not know nor discover it till the Misfortune §, which was the Consequence of it appeared. All which is humbly submitted to your Honours, by

Your most faithful and

obedient humble Servant,

JAMES WOOD.

On the 20th of *January*, 1745-6, I attended the Victualling-Board by their Order, to give my Opinion of the Causes of the Badness of Provisions, loudly complained of to the Admiralty Board, and confirmed my Opinion thereon, as before signified to the late Mr. *Revell*, Page 7, 8, 9, 10. Half an Hour after the Victualling-Board broke up, I was sent for to Mr. *H—l*, a C—r, and, to my great Surprise,

of the Killings! How can the C———s answer for suffering these Things to be so? who now will justify the Insults and gross Abuse I received for keeping Casks from being exposed to the Weather, when Power was given me?

Would it not have been a more proper Explanation, had he said, instead of *the different Parts and Multiplicity of Business*; such as required his Attendance at *Greenwich-Hospital*, and *Marrowbone-Hall*. his Country-house, and justified his retarding the King's Business by taking Labourers out of it for his private Use?

* What Damages may not be expected from Inattention to Business,

† With what Assurance, without reasoning on the old Adage, Birds of a Feather flock together.

‡ A Sort of Contradiction to his own Report, or if it be not so, where are his Qualifications for enabling him to preside as an Officer over that consequential Branch of the King's Business.

§ Here he confirms as a Certainty, what he doubtfully sets forth in the first Part of his Report, where he says, *if my Life was at Stake*, disowning also the Judgment of the Judicious, and invalidating my frequent Representations. On the whole of this Officer's Report, it is my Opinion he has taken great Pains to shew he has taken none at all, or at least what another would blush at.

prize, was told I was discharged ; which was equally as just as punishing a Cooper for the Brewer's making bad Beer of bad Malt ; a Cooper and a Pickle-Boiler being two distinct Employments, and quite independent of each other. What is more astonishing was, that they should discharge the Man whom they were obliged to, for enabling them to satisfy the Admiralty Board with regard to the Complaints the said Admiralty Board demanded the Causes of. This appears by the Victuallers Report to the Admiralty, Page 17, 18. Without this Information they might have been so much puzzled, as to be under an Obligation to Dame *Invention* for an Excuse to gloss over their unjustifiable Proceedings.

To the Honourable the Commissioners of his Majesty's Victualling-Office.

Honourable Sirs,

WITH humble Submission, I beg Leave now to be admitted to demonstrate, that the Complaints for which I am discharged, were no Part of my Duty as a Cooper, and that I frequently have been reprimanded on taking Notice of others Negligences, and reputed a troublesome busy Body. Which is humbly submitted to your Honours, by

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

21 Jan. 1745-6.
Not called.

W. THOMPSON.

Copy of the Victualling-Board's Minute to Mr. Charles More, Master Cooper, 23 Jan. 1745-6.

WILLIAM THOMPSON, Foreman of the Pickle-yard Coopers, observed, that Fleth Casks have been sometimes wrought up with stinking Timber ; and being asked whether he had found any since he was Foreman, he replied he had, and had returned several to the Cooperage, which were stinking after Seasoning, and that he shewed them to Mr. More, Master Cooper, and Mr. Godfrey, the Foreman, who told him they would prevent any thing like it for the future ; but that nevertheless, he found great Difficulties

ficulties with the Coopers to make them fend him such Casks as were all sweet and fit for Use, and without defective Timber ; and further, that the Coopers frequently fend the Flesh Casks to him at Night, to prevent (as he supposed) his being able so well to inspect into them, and discover any Defect in the Workmanship. For that *Thomas Allen*, one of the Pickle-yard Coopers, informed him, that upon his (*Thompson*) sending back a Cask sometime since, which was not well flag'd, the Person that made it was ordered to remedy the Defect, but that Somebody who stood by, said it was no Matter for troubling himself about it, for they might fend it back to him (*Thompson*) at Night.

29 Jan. 1745.

*The late Honourable James Brudenell, Esq; to
the late Thomas Revell, Esq;*

S I R,

I Am sorry to hear that *William Thompson*, a Cooper, whom I lately recommended to you as a Man of undoubted Knowledge, and good Character, capable in every Respect to be serviceable in the most frugal Manner in your Office, should incur the Displeasure of your Board, so far as to be discharged, when I should rather have hoped he might have been preferred, and admitted to have had a Trial in the pickling Branch, which I am confident he would perform better for the Navy, and at a cheaper Rate, than others that have been tried, can do. I offer this to you as a Friend, leaving it to your Judgment how far to proceed in it.

I am yours, &c

J. B.

William

28 Feb. 1745-6.

William Thompson to the Victualling-Board.

Honourable Sirs,

BEING discharged, and conceiving it to proceed from a Mistake in my late Officer's Report, I humbly pray your Honours to give me *now* a Hearing. If am guilty I hope for no Pardon, but a further Punishment ; if innocent, Justice ; both which is humbly submitted to your Honours, by

Your most obedient Servant,

W. THOMPSON.

21 March, 1745-6.

William Thompson, to the Victualling-Board.

Honourable Sirs,

BEING discharged, I humbly pray the Favour of a Hearing, at your Honourable Board, being as desirous to submit to a further Punishment, if guilty, as I am in Hopes of being restored, if innocent ; and as a Proof of my Desires to do Honour to your Board, and serve his Majesty's Navy, I am willing, if your Honours please to grant me a Trial, to cure Beef and Pork better and cheaper than has been offered by any one ; in order to which, I will find such Security you shall please to direct, and pay for any Damages (but fear none) that may accrue from my Curing, which is humbly submitted to your Honours, by

Your obedient humble Servant,

W. THOMPSON.

Victualling-Office, 1 Feb. 1745-6.

The Victuallers Report to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

S I R,

THE Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having by Order of the 11th of *November* last, been pleased to direct a Survey to be taken on the Provisions aboard the five Victuallers in *Portsmouth* Harbour, viz. the *Bedford*, *Sally*, *Shirley*, *Lucretia*, and *Theophila*, bound to *Jamaica*, on Account of their having been long Water-born, and that such as should be defective, should be replaced with Provisions of this Season, and that we should let their Lordships know our Proceedings therein: We pray Leave to acquaint you, for their Lordships Information, that by the Account of the Provisions aboard the Ships already surveyed, the Pickle in several Casks of Beef is reported by the Surveyors to be bloody, tainted and stinking, and we have thereupon ordered up four of the said Casks, and inspected them ourselves, together with several Persons used to the salting of Meat for the Merchants Service, and caused several of our Officers and Salters, and Persons employed in the Cutting-house Branch to do the like. We find that the Pickle in them is of a more bloody Colour than ordinary, and of a sour, strong, and stinking Smell, though the Meat itself is sweet, and appears to be cured at first, and the Pickle when ship'd was reported to be sweet, and in good Condition by our Officers who were ordered to inspect it, and the greatest Part of the Meat by repacking and pickling, will still be fit for Service.

We took the Examination of the several Persons who viewed the Pickle, as to what they thought could be the Reasons of its Defect, but many of them were not able to give any, and those which have been offered, are very little satisfactory, being most of them conjectural, and many quite contradictory.

But although we are not able to learn to what Cause particularly the said Defect is owing, yet from the whole, we conclude it must have proceeded either from the Pickle's not having been of due Strength at first, or from the bloody Brine having been suffered to lie too long in the Wells before boiled into Pickle, or to its not being duly scummed

D

and

and clarified in boiling, or from the Casks not having been drove and filled up with Pickle in due Time after packed : and therefore to prevent any Neglect in any of these Particulars for the future, we have dismissed the Person who had the Care of boiling the Pickle, and keeping the Wells, into which the bloody Brine runs, clean, at the Time in which the said Meat was killed and packed ; and likewise the Coopers, who as it is has been represented unto us, had the charge of driving the Casks in due Time, and filling them up with Pickle, and seeing that they were fit for the Service, and that the Pickle was sweet and of due Strength.

We also take Leave to send you, for the further Information of their Lordships, a Copy of which Mr. *Wood*, Clerk of the Cutting-house, has set forth in his own Justification in the said Affair.

We are also to add, that we have ordered the Beef in which the Pickle had been found defective, to be replaced with fresh of this Year's Killings.

And as to the Flour for Beef aboard the said Ships, it is not fit to be sent to *Jamaica*, being near eleven Months old, and beginning to decay. We therefore have ordered it to be baked up into Bread as usual, at *Portsmouth*, for which it is very fit, and caused fresh to be put aboard the Ships in the room of it.

The Bread, as far as we have yet an Account, is all good, but as it has been so long aboard, we thought it would be most adviseable to have it expended at home ; and have accordingly ordered it to be replaced with fresh.

The rest of the Provisions are in good Order, and fit to proceed to *Jamaica*, as far as we have hitherto an Account of. We are, Sir,

Your most humble Servants,

THO. REVELL.
RICHARD HALL.
WILL. DAVIS.
THO. BRERETON.
WILL. HAY.

The Victuallers and their Officers Report to the Admiralty Board being of equal Account, it will be needless to animadvert thereon ; I shall therefore only throw together a few

few Remarks on the latter Parts of the Victuallers Report,
viz.

Meat itself sweet, and appears to be cured at first P. 17. l. 21.

The Incoherency of their H——s Conduct and Report almost disposes me to a laughing Fit, because one would hardly suspect Oxen to stink when killed this Day, and salted the next, in the Winter Season. One may also suppose, that they were well versed in the Arts of Shuffling and Collusion. But to be serious: Let them answer me, if the Meat was well cured at first, what it was that could induce them on this Occasion, to discharge the three oldest and most experienced Salters in their Service, who constantly attended, and performed their Duty. But supposing these Oxen to be sweet a little Time after they were killed, which is the most that can be said; it is undeniable they were not fit to be killed; and when slaughtered, they were not properly killed, but murdered: A great Advantage to the Contractors, because the less they are bled and dressed, the more they weigh.

Pickle sweet when shipped, p. ditto. l. 22.

If so, why was the Pickle Boiler discharged.

Officers Inspection of the Pickle, p. ditto, l. 23.

Let them show who those Officers were, so ordered as they set forth, and what any of them understand of the making or Quality of Pickle, and also the Occasion of their ordering their Officers to inspect more particularly this Pickle than any other.

Repacking and Pickling, p. 17. l. 24.

This is doing Work twice over, and making it worse than before, as can be demonstrated, therefore it would be better to sustain the first Loss. All the Pickle in the World can never clean Flesh that has been long fed with sour, stinking Pickle. Fresh Pickle would soon grow as corrupt as the old, with this Difference, that while it was fresh, it would more forcibly convey itself into the Flesh, and with such active Power, so as to extract from the Flesh whatever na-

tural Juices the old strong, sour Pickle did not. The Flesh consequently will have nothing more left than the Name, or will properly be nothing better than the Strings or Husk of Flesh, and Salt of Meat. Now if such, in a plentiful Country, which our gracious God has hitherto blessed us with, can be called *Food*, can we be so senseless; we who live at Ease, fed with Milk and Honey, as to call it *human Food*, when Dogs that I have frequently offered returned Ships Provision to, have flaged their Tails, ran away, and would not even smell to it? But if this be the Case, as it is in Effect, and too evident to be denied; what Safety can there then be to a Nation, so as not to perish, when her young and strong Men are eaten up and devoured by that destroying Angel the Scurvy, in far greater Numbers than they fall by the Enemies Sword. It must be an unparallel'd Ingratitude and Stupidity, thus effectually to destroy those who are exposing themselves to dismembering and embowelling, and braving Death, in its greatest Horrors and Dangers, to preserve our Lives and Properties. My Heart begins to feel a tender Passion not in the least unmanly: but I have done; and do only offer one more Remark, which is, that though Officers can better provide for themselves than common Men, yet they can effect nothing without them. It will signify but little, that the Commanders and Officers are Heroes of great Renown, in good bodily Health, with stout Ships, and every other Appurtenance of the best Sort for fighting, unless the Seamen are also in Health and high Spirits: for by Illness they can neither fight nor work their Ships, nor obey Command. I own this a Digression and commenting unnecessarily on a Subject better known than I can describe.

But altho' we are not able to learn from what Cause, p. 17.l.32.

Though the Victuallers confess themselves at a Loss, and puzzled to find out the Cause for Complaints of bad Provisions, yet have they not scrupled to shew their Power or Dexterity to discharge, at all Hazard, four innocent Coopers, among the rest one of whom was seventy three Years of Age, and had been in the Victualling Service from a Boy. This Conduct of theirs gives great Reason to suspect that the Burthen of Shame lay heavy on them, and that they could not clear themselves of it, without finding a Sacrifice to atone for their Guilt, and quash frequent Demurs about Misdemeanours they might afterwards be called upon to

to answer for before their Superiors, as appears by the late Mr. *Brereton's* Message delivered to me for the late honourable *James Brudenell, Esq;* p. 22.

And as to the Flour for Beef. p. 18. l. 19.

It may be a Query, whether this Flour, according to Mr. *John Lloyd's* Account of dry Stores, p. . was ever fit for Service even at the first ; if not, it can be no Absurdity to conclude it must be much worse by lying heating many Months in the Ship's Hold. Their prudent turning it into Bread, I hope proceeded from no worse a Cause than Ignorance, being not much unlike the hedging a Field round to keep a Black-bird from flying away. It is to me as great an Inconsistency that rotten, musty, weavely Flour should make good Bread, as rotten mouldy Grapes should make good Wine, however ingenious the Artists Skill might be.

As being on a Subject of Bread baking, I do not think it improper at this Time, to mention a Lighter being sunk while it was keyed to the Wharf of the *Redbouse* Store-houses at *Deptford* last Summer ; which Lighter had four hundred Bags of Bread on Board, or thereabouts, and was afterwards sold, as I am informed, to a certain Person to feed Hogs with. And notwithstanding this, more Bread was afterwards put on Board this same Lighter, and sunk a second Time, and damaged Ninety Bags of Bread more or thereabout. Whose Fault this was, and how the Damage was accounted for, and who was the Sacrifice, if there was any, I cannot be informed ?

By their H——s Silence on the Quality of Butter, Cheese, Oil and Raisins, I presume there was none on Board the said Ships, or by being long Water-born, they might have been expended : the Cheese into Ammunition, cast into Cannon Balls, the Raisins as Wadding for the same ; the Butter and Oil to grease their Tackle with, for which it may be thought very fit, by those Tars whose Stomachs are not very squeamish, and who can bear to paddle their Fingers in stinking Slush. If this is the Case, it is no longer a Wonder at the Purfers being tormented with Execration and bitter Wrath from poor remediless, aggrieved and tortured Men on Board, and the Difficulties and Delays they meet with in passing their Accounts at the proper Offices on Shore. To which may be also added, the many Impositions passed on the Masters of several Victualling Transport Vessels and Tenders, in

in getting admitted into the Service, and the tedious Expence of Time and Money, in getting their Accounts passed, by overbearing and mercenary Officers, &c. under superior Protection. I do not think it improper to set forth in this Place also, the frequent Trouble and Disappointments the common Seamen often meet with, when they come to receive their little Shares of short Allowance Money; their Abuses in which, has often provoked them to Rage and Threats of Violence.

2 April, 1746.

The late honourable *James Brudenell*, Esq; orders me to wait on the late *Thomas Brereton*, Esq; with his Compliments, desiring the said late *Thomas Brereton*, Esq; to send Word either by Word of Mouth, or in Writing, which he should chuse, upon what Account I was discharged,

ANSWER. (rising from his Table, and clapping me on the Shoulder.

My dear *Thompson*, I do not think you was in Fault; nor none of us think you was in Fault; but the Thing hangs harder upon us than it does upon you. We are all of us Men of Fortune, and Men of Place, subject to be called upon before the Lords of the Admiralty, and before the Parliament; to prevent which we thought it was better for you to lose your Employment than we our Places.

[*So help me God.*]

28 March, 1746.

William Thomson to the Duke of B——d.

May it please your Grace,

WITH great Humility I beg Leave to acquaint you, that I have been some Years employed as a Cooper in his Majesty's Victualling Office, *London*; and was last *August* made inspecting Cooper of the Pickle-yard of the said Office, for the good Services I had performed therein, by the honourable Commissioners of Victualling, since which

which some Complaints from Sea having been made at your Right Honourable Board, of the Badness of Flesh Provisions cured last Year, though I was not then intrusted with the Care of that Branch, the honourable Commissioners have thought proper to discharge me, as may appear to your Grace in their Report to your Rt. Honourable Board. Instead of being discharged I was in Hopes of being rewarded for my extraordinary Pains and Care. Last Friday I obtained, after nine Weeks Application to their Board, and to every Member thereof, from Time to Time, personally, at their own Houses, the Favour of a Hearing at their Board, where I acquitted myself of all Blame. At which Time the said Commissioners were pleased to tell me, they had no Objections to my Duty since my Inspection, but that they would not alter their first Judgment against me.

In these Circumstances I must humbly pray your Grace to protect my injured Innocence, and not to suffer Loyalty and Affection to King and Country (accounted a Merit in former Ages) to be punished unworthily in this. If it should be your Pleasure to interest yourself in this consequential Concern, and afterwards order, as you shall think me worthy to be returned to my late Employ.: I then, with your Grace's Approbation, will perform a further Good for the Benefit of all, in curing Beef and Pork for the Royal Navy, better and cheaper than has hitherto been practised, or offered by any one, and will find such Security for all Damages as may accrue from my curing, but fear none.

I beg Leave to offer myself to your Grace in Humbleness of Mind.

Your GRACE'S

most obedient Servant,

W. THOMPSON.

Extract

9 October, 1746.

Extract of a Letter from _____
 _____ *to William Thompson.*

S I R,

THIS informs you it was the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth Packs of Hogs in 1743 that stunk, and notwithstanding the Salters complained the Weather was hot and muggy, yet they killed such Quantities, and hung them so thick, that they could not cool, and even stunk at the Scale, being about fifteen hundred. Though strongly opposed by Messers and Salters, they were obliged to cut and salt them, for which the C——s mulcted their Wages, making them also do their Work over-again without any Allowance; and after great Quantities of extra Salt and Labour used, the Pork was not fit for Service. The 7th of Feb. 1744, the O——s of the Flesh Branch, then, and at other Times, frequently repulsed their Men for refusing to cut and salt what was not fit for Service; directing them, as their Business, to cut and salt what was brought to them, and ask no Questions. *Note*, One Hog was bruised almost to a Jelly.

Some of these Hogs were taken Notice of as they were driving for Slaughter, to be very unfit for Service, by Mr. *John Lloyd*, who was thereupon called to the Board to give his Reasons for so saying, which he gave cogent enough to prevent the slaughtering them: notwithstanding which they were killed and salted. He also declared to the Board, that if they took Salt, he would submit himself to be salted. As this was the real Case, would it not have been better to have stop'd the Killings than wastefully expended both Labour and Money upon them, that were afterwards condemned as unserviceable.

To

*To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Executing
the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.*

**The humble REMONSTRANCE of *William
Thompson,***

Sheweth,

THAT he, the said *William Thompson*, a Cooper, lately employed in his Majesty's Victualling Office, *London*, was in *June*, 1745 called upon by the honourable Mr. *H--ll*, a Commissioner thereof, to know if he could account for the Faults of the curing Branch; which he did so much to the Satisfaction of the said Mr. *H--ll*, that in *August* following he was sent for to the honourable Victualling Board, and accounted for the Faults of that Branch there likewise. Upon which the Board was pleased to give him, the said *William Thompson*, a Minute to inspect that Branch according to the Methods that he had acquainted them with.

That in *September* following he received another Minute, ordering him the said *William Thompson* to continue his Inspection, which he did better to the Satisfaction of the honourable Commissioners, and good Liking, as well as Benefit, of poor Men in general, than ever was done before, and less expensive also.

That in *January* following, there came Complaints to the Board of the Badness of Provisions cured in 1744, which was the Year before the said *William Thompson* received his Minutes for inspecting the curing Branch.

That upon this, the honourable Victualling Board sent for him, the said *William Thompson*, to know if he could account for the Causes of those Complaints; which he did in a great many Respects, though not in all, fearing it might greatly prejudice some particular Persons, whose Practices were too notorious for him to approve. Some of great Consequence he prevented by virtue of his Inspection, and proposed to prevent the rest, could he have procured sufficient Power, which could be no otherwise than by his being made Master Cooper of his Majesty's Cutting-house and Pickleyard by your Lordships; and that the said *William Thompson* did humbly submit to the honourable Victualling Board in *August* 1745. But very unexpectedly, he the said

E

William

William Thompson was prevented, not only continuing to practise that Good, which all Sorts of Persons applauded, (the Government, and poor Men) in a superlative Manner being better served; but, also what he additionally intended for the Comfort and better Health of his Majesty's Navy-Men, by his being upon this his Hearing immediately discharged from his Employment.

That the said *William Thompson* being well known to, and esteemed by the honourable *James Brudenell*, Esq; deceased, was by him many Times strongly recommended to the honourable Commissioners for a Hearing, which he obtained, and entirely cleared himself from the Charge against him; notwithstanding which, the Commissioners did not restore him.

That he the said *William Thompson* acquainted the late honourable Mr. *Brudenell* therewith, who desired him to have Patience till he could see the honourable Commissioners, which that Gentleman was pleased to do, and afterwards advised the said *William Thompson* to be easy for a little Time, for that the honourable Commissioners had promised him that he should be restored.

That he the said *William Thompson* has waited hitherto with the greatest Patience, without finding any Effect of the said Commissioners Promise to the deceased Gentleman, and has been informed of its being out of the Power of the honourable Commissioners to restore him, by Reason of his being reported to your Lordships: Therefore the said *William Thompson* humbly presumes to trouble your Lordships with the annexed Petition.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.

The humble PETITION of *William Thompson*,

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner apprehends himself to be unjustly reported by his late Officer, Mr. *James Wood*, to the honourable Commissioners of his Majesty's Victualling-Office, *London*, as he hath endeavoured to make appear to your Lordships in a Remonstrance annexed hereto.

That your Petitioner was last *January* discharged by Means of his late Officer's Report to the honourable Commissioners,

ners, for a Fault committed in the curing Branch, wherein he was no ways accountable, it being the Year before the Time of his inspecting that Branch, as his Minutes from the Victualling Board clearly show; nevertheless, your Petitioner being well acquainted with the true Causes of the Royal Navy's just Complaints is still willing to serve his Majesty in the said Office, to prevent them.

Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays, that your Lordships will be pleased to admit him to be heard before your Lordships, that he may have Opportunity to make his Innocence appear; and if thereupon it shall be your Lordships Pleasure to grant your Petitioner a Warrant of Master Cooper of his Majesty's Cutting-house and Pickle-yard, *London*, with a small Privilege, and to enable him to execute his Undertaking without the Interposition of any other Officer, and to prevent his being discharged but at the Pleasure of your Lordships; in Consideration of which, your Petitioner will be accountable for all Sorts of Work performed by the Coopers and Labourers of the said Branch, and likewise for all Stores under his Care, and the Issues and Returns of them, and will find such Security for his Fidelity, as your Lordships shall please to direct; or that your Lordships will please to grant such other Powers as to your Lordships shall seem meet. And

Your Petitioner shall ever pray.

24 December, 1746.

Samuel Trew, *Town-Clerk of Maldon in Essex, to B——n A——r, Esq; by Desire of the Aldermen of the said Town.*

Dear Sir,

THE Bearer, Mr. *Thompson*, has a Petition depending before the Lords of the Admiralty, the Particulars whereof he will acquaint you with. He is a Stranger to me (the Son of the late Rev. Mr. *Francis Thompson* of our Town) but by the best Account I can gather, is a Man of good Character, and Mr. *Jonas Malden*, and some of my Friends here, have desired me to recommend him as such, and to beg the Favour of your Letter recommending him to

L—d B——'s good Offices, which may in all Probability
be of good Service to him.

I am, S I R,

Your most obedient Servant,

Maldon, 24 Octob. 1746.

SAMUEL TREW.

Delivered to B—— A——, Esq; at *Sudbury*, at the same
Time received his to L—d B——n, and delivered it in
Person the *Monday* following.

24 Octob. 1746.

B——n A——r to L—d B——n.

My Lord,

THE Bearer hereof, who is strongly recommended to
me as a Person of good Character, from many in my
Neighbourhood, complains, that by some Delay in an Af-
fair lately before the Victualling Office, he is a great
Sufferer. He says his Case will speak for itself, when it is
fully laid open to your L——p. If it will, I have told
him it will want no other Interest; if it will not, that no
other will be effectual. All he can hope from my
Letter, will be an Introduction to you, which is the only
Favour I presume, in his Behalf, to ask; who am,

My Lord, Your Lordship's

Delivered in Person the
Monday following.

most obedient humble Servant,

B——n A——r.

William

21 Nov. 1746.

William Thompson to the L—ds D—n,
B—n, and V—~~X~~e.

May it please your L——p,

WITH great Humility I intreat your L——p's Pardon for this further troubling you : But as it is a publick Cause, a general Good, and my injured Innocence, I mean to support against all Opposers ; I am in no Doubt of there being Motives sufficiently great enough to induce your Lordship (as an illustrious Pattern of Loyalty, as an Enemy to Arbitrariness and Injustice, as a Lover of Truth and Shield to the Oppressed) to give a Sanction to my Case, set forth and delivered this Day in my Memorial, dated Nov. 19, 1746, and addressed to your Right Honourable Board, inclosed in a Letter directed to *Thomas Corbett, Esq;*

If my said Memorial meets with any Opponents to object to it, I am confident I shall meet with no Difficulty of invalidating them, if admitted to answer to them before your Right Honourable Board, *Viva voce* ; which Favour I humbly pray for ; and if then I may be found to fail in any one Point, I desire no other Favour than to die for it, as a Punishment due to my Crimes.

This, my noble Lord, with a chearful Resolution and Zeal, I beg Leave to submit to your Lordships great Dignity and Honour. But if the Merits of my Cause shall appear clear, and worthy of your countenancing, I shall think myself greatly honoured, in having the Liberty of consigning myself over to the Protection of your well known Wisdom and Goodness, and of gladly offering myself to be your L——p's

Ever devoted humble Servant,

Delivered to each a Copy.

W. THOMPSON.

Victualling

Viſtualling-Office, 20 October 1746.

*Viſtuallers Report to the Admiralty Board, in
Answer to the Remonſtrance of William
Thompson.*

[Directed to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.]

S I R,

IN Return to your Letter of the firſt Inſtant, incloſing a Remonſtrance of *William Thompson*, a Cooper, lately employed in the Pickle-yard of this Office, concerning his being diſcharged, and a Petition to the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty, that he may be appointed Maſter Cooper of the Pickle-yard and Cutting-houſe, and ſignifying the Directions of their Lordſhips, that we ſhould ſtate what he has repreſented, and report our Opinion thereon, we beg Leave to be referred to our Letter to Mr. *Corbett* of the firſt of *February* laſt, wherein we ſet forth the Reaſons for diſcharging the ſaid *William Thompson*, and three other Pickle-yard Coopers in ordinary. And as to his having been appointed to inſpect that Branch, we are to obſerve, that he ſeeming to be an active Man, was made Foreman of the four Pickle-yard Coopers, which is a Denomination always given to one of them, but without any Difference of Wages, and from thence, we preſume he thought himſelf an Officer, and occaſions his Application to their Lordſhips for being appointed Maſter Cooper of the Pickle-yard, which is an Office intirely new, and which we think the Service ſtands in no need of; or if it did, he would not be a fit Perſon for it. And we beg Leave further to acquaint you, that although we did not think proper to continue the ſaid *Thompson*, and the other three Pickle-yard Coopers any longer in that Station, for the Reaſons mentioned in our Letters of the firſt of *February*, yet we did not deny them from working as Coopers in any other Station, which ſome of the others have done.

We herewith return the Papers incloſed in your ſaid Letter, and are,

S I R,

Your moſt humble Servants,

JOHN CLEVELAND, *Eſq;*

RICHARD HALL.
W. DAVIS.

A COPY, HENRY PELHAM.

JAMES WALLACE.
ANIMAD-

20 October, 1746.

ANIMADVERSIONS

On the VICTUALLERS Report to the ADMIRALTY BOARD.

PAGE 30, Line 7. *We should state what he has represented.*

Where is the Obedience or Conformity to be found in their whole Report, touching any one Circumstance in my Remonstrance? And if any one Thing therein was wrong, why did they not state and point it out, unless some of their superiour Friends conceived they wanted Sense, or rather Honesty so to do?

L. 7. *And report our Opinion thereon.*

That could not well be expected in Equity, as it must have produced not only Self-conviction, but Self-condemnation.

L. 10. *Set forth the Reasons.*

It would have been better said *for Want of Reason.*

L. 13. *Appointed to inspect.*

Vid. Victualling-Board's Minute, p. 11, 12.

L. 14. *Seeming to be an active Man.*

Very faint, and implies a Doubt; but let me be judged by my Works, and by all Men that ever knew me, from my Cradle to this Hour.

L. 14. *Foreman.*

Let

Let these Gentlemen shew an Instance of the Board's Minute to any one Foreman before, enjoining him to perform those Things my Minutes from this Board directed me to do ; and let them also answer if they did not appoint another Pickle-yard Cooper in my Room, on my being preferred to a more confirmed Power than any other Foreman before or since. If it was needless, why did they do it ? Or if I was unfit, where was their Judgment in making Choice of me, contrary to my Desires, as I set forth to them at their Board on their first Proposal ? This indeed may be said, that it was an Employ of much more Trouble and Concern, without any additional Pay, and of much more Fatigue than before, having been up three Weeks together, and never regularly slept any Part of the whole Time, in order to get my Business done, which I never had Occasion to do before ; neither should I have done it then, had it been my Duty ; and with the Intent to prove that, I did not advance any Thing to the late Mr. Revell, p. 7. that I was not capable of performing myself. This, and no other, was the Reason that induced me to accept of the Power they offered me to work my own Plan of Business ; the Board telling me, at my second Refusal of their Board's Order, that whoever should presume to interrupt me in my Process of Business, if I reported them to the Board, they should be instantly discharged.

not /

L. 16. *Difference of Wages.*

Not to their Credit, the Government being so many Thousand Pounds *per annum* benefited by me, as may easily be made to appear.

L. 17. *Thought himself an Officer.*

Very ungenteel. Let them produce one Instance to prove it. I was always wise enough to know, that all Officers were warranted from the Admiralty Board, but never so great a Knave as to arrogate a Function that did not belong to me. See my Remonstrance to the Admiralty, Page 25.

L. 19. *An Office entirely new.*

Newer

Newer indeed, than that notable Invention of pulling up the Free-Stone Bottom of an eleven-foot Oven, and laying down an Iron Bottom in the lieu of it, to burn Bread on, at some Hundreds of Pounds Expence to the Government, for Maggot Baking, and at a Time too, when Bread was greatly wanted for the King's Service, which was greatly impeded by this Piece of studied Dullness, or Love of encouraging the once enchanting *Musick* of Anvil and Hammer.

P. 30. L. 20. *Service stands in no need of.*

Much more than expending so many Thousand Pounds in Building a new Victualling-Office and Wharf at *Deptford*, to be burnt down by another notable Iron Invention, called a *Flew*, running through the Warehouses, fed with constant Fires to keep their dry Stores from being mouldy, and perishing in a Place more fit for a Wet-Dock than Storehouses for dry Stores.

P. 30. L. 21. *He would not be a fit Person for it.*

Agreed. If Industry and an honest Heart were Disqualifications for their Honours Service, which it is presumed they have now guarded against, by procuring a new Officer by the Name of Storekeeper of *Deptford*, with a Salary of 150 *l. per Ann.* four or five Clerks, Coals, Candles, and a fine Garden and Orchard, to tyrannize over poor Men in the Day, and hug himself comfortably at Night in his own House with his Bottle, toasting his Masters good Health, or on soft Down reposing his wearied Limbs; whilst two Watchmen of equal Probity, would patrol the whole Night the Storehouses through, without Coals, or half the Candles that are burnt in an Evening in a House, for 40 *l. per Ann.*

Another Piece of Frugality is now to be seen, in expending 1000 *l.* or thereabout, in fitting up a C——r's House about three Years ago, my L——dy having a choice Nose, (as I have been informed) thought it not fit for one of that Rank to live in, by which means it hath been untenanted ever since.

I hope it will not be thought prodigal, or unbecoming a Man of Spirit and Prudence, when his Character is grossly insulted, to defend it; on which Principle I challenge their whole B——d to produce any one Cooper in the three Nations,

tions, who, comparatively, has been of equal Utility to the Crown and Kingdoms with me.

P. 30. L. 23. *Did not think proper to continue the said Thompson, and the other three Coopers.*

It is not becoming me as unlicensed to say any thing for others ; but thus far I hope I shall give no Offence by saying, that they were discharged for a Thing they had no more Concern in, than one who never was in the Office. As to myself, I have already desired them to shew the Justification of such Conduct, in ever discharging me.

P. 30. L. 26. *Yet we did not deny them from Working.*

The only one that did work, was ill used and insulted by many, tho' a Favourite, which his good Behaviour merited, as well as more than common Labour ; but that was a Courtesy those Gentlemen might have spared offering me, as having more consequential Business on my Hands, quite necessary for them now to know.

This shews the friendly Coalition and Correspondence between the then two B ——— ds, and how coolly and undisturbed they conversed with one another, it little mattered whether either was right, or either wrong. But I presume to think, they would not have let their Ears appear quite so long, had they suspected I should ever come to the Knowledge of the true length of them.

To be ludicrous on serious Concerns, shews a want of Gravity, but who can help laughing at a Sight so odd, as appears rising to my View, beholding near, and not afar off, Tinkers, and Taylors, Coachmen, Footmen, Cinder-Whences and Coblers, all seated on a Board together, brooding wondrous addled Things ; and whilst hatching, lo ! the vast Change of Time, assisted by Magick Art of *Transmutation*, these brightly illuminated, irradiated, sagacious, and once wonderful and much honoured terrible Things, after being well ground, brewed, baked, bled, pickled, salted, sifted, forged, mended &c. were work'd up into Animals, not much unlike the Academical Apes in the Print Shops.

As an Advocate and Admirer of Merit wherever I find it, I will not let it pass without Respect ; yet I pray what I say may not offend a modest Ear, and be thought insulsome. It proceeds from an entire Disinterestedness ; for I neither have,
nor

nor ever expect to receive any Favour from Mr. *Henry Pelham*, Secretary to the Victualling Board. I do believe him to be the honest righteous Gentleman there, and therefore in Justice to be shielded from being reputed a Sharer in any Catastrophe. To prevent any Suspicion of his being thought an Assistant in procuring me Copies of the two B — d's Correspondence, I declare before God he was not.

Nov. 19, 1746.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great-Britain.

The MEMORIAL of William Thompson.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT he, the said *William Thompson*, had lately the Honour of presenting his humble Remonstrance and Petition to your Lordships, concerning his being (as he apprehends) unjustly discharged from his Employment in his Majesty's Victualling-Office *London*, after his having most assiduously used his utmost Endeavours, to rectify, and prevent, the many notorious Errors, that had been committed in the Curing Branch, which occasioned loud, and just Complaints, in his Majesty's Navy: And even after your Memorialist's Practice, and Endeavours, were apparently effectual, in remedying in many Respects, those Grievances, that had been long subsisting. But as he, the said *William Thompson*, humbly conceives the general mention of his Services, as represented in his Remonstrance, not to be sufficiently satisfactory to your Lordships, he humbly begs leave to offer the particular Heads thereof, in this Memorial, hoping it will afford your Lordships a true Explanation of his Remonstrance, and set the Cause of his petitioning your Lordships, in a just Light; as he is with the greatest Pleasure, ready to attest, each of the Articles, upon Oath, if required; which are as follows, *viz.*

Your MEMORIALIST,

Informed the Master Cooper of the said Office, of his Majesty's Victualling, how to prepare Casks for the Flesh Branch.

Surveyed all the Casks for the said Branch, before used, returning the unserviceable, when got ready in Time.

Signified to the Honourable Commissioners of his Majesty's Victualling, the Usefulness of larger Packing Cloths, and the want of Sailcloths.

Sent the Casks out of the Cutting House, in better Order than before.

Prevented many hundred of Casks fresh packed, from being many Weeks uncoopered, exposed to all Weathers.

Procured a quicker Dispatch of Business in the said Branch, than before, and less expensive.

Procured an additional Store House, for the Stowage of Casks when coopered, to prevent their being exposed to the Weather.

Proposed, when Store Houses were full, to have Tarpawlings to cover Casks, otherwise exposed to the Weather.

Coopers, and Labourers, in the said Branch, better satisfied under his Direction, than that of any other before.

Shew'd the Necessity for Carts working properly to clear the Store Houses, reporting the Inconveniencies for want of them.

Observed to the Honourable Commissioners aforesaid, the Foulness of the Brine Drains, and Wells, and the Prejudice that Pickle receives from being made of Brine out of those stinking Receptacles, informing them, of the Stinking of new Pickle, before it was used, and means to prevent it.

Preserved Flesh in its Casks better than before; and prevented the Waste of great Quantities of Pickle.

Signified the ill Effects of Fermentation, and a Remedy to prevent it.

Stowed all the Flesh in that Form and regular Order, so as to have the oldest as intire by itself as the newest, and as ready to issue as directed, according to the Voyage they were designed for.

Signified his humble Opinion of the ill Effects of last Year's Method of Pickling, which now prove true.

Recommended to the said Honourable Victualling Board, by the Advice and Order, of the late Hon. *James Brudenell*, Esq; a safer Method of curing Flesh more effectually, than any yet practised in the said Office, offering any Security the said Honourable Commissioners should please to direct, to make good Damages, if they conceived any might be: For the Performance of which Method of Cure, the deceased Hon. Mr. *Brudenell*'s Letter to the Hon. Mr. *Revell* testifies; and the frequent Interviews of the

the said deceased Gentleman, with the other Honourable Commissioners of the said Board.

In last Year's unnatural Rebellion, your Memorialist did animate, and encourage all the Men of the said Branch, being one hundred and thirty, to fight as well upon Occasion, as to work, for the Support of his said Majesty King *George*, and his Government, in Defence of his said Majesty's undoubted Rights, and our happy Constitution. And for the better capacitating us to act in these our firm Resolutions, your Memorialist desired Mr. *James Wood*, his late Officer, to recommend our Loyalty and Zeal to the said Honourable Commissioners, and in order to obtain their Concurrence, and also to provide them with Arms proper for such Occasion, and a Military Officer to discipline us.

How far these Services (being the Produce of my own Studies, and never before practised by any one) may appear recommendatory to your Lordship's Favour, your Memorialist humbly submits, with an intire Resignation, to your great Wisdom and Goodness.

21 November, 1746.

William Thompson, to Thomas Corbett, Esq;

Honourable Sir,

THE enclosed Memorial, I humbly pray for the favour of your reading to their Lordships, and recommending my earnest Desires of answering its Contents before their Right Hon. Board at their Appointment.

I have nothing to induce me to entreat this Favour from you, but the Merits of a publick Cause, and the Character and Recommendation you had of me from the late Hon. *James Brudenell*, Esq; which being favourably consider'd as an Inducement to present my Desires to their Lordships, will be an additional Honour gratefully received, by

Your ever Obliged humble Servant,

W. T.

On the 22d of November 1746, I attended the A—m—y Board, in Expectation of being called upon to answer to my Memorial, but to no Effect.

I address'd my L—— d B——n at his leaving the B——d, who told me he had seen the Victuallers, and did believe them very much in the right, and that he had nothing more to say to me.

L——d V——e, on my applying to him at his leaving the B——d also, turn'd short on his Heel, telling me he knew nothing of the Matter.

I must not omit shewing how well Lord *Duncannon* approved himself the Nobleman, by kindly calling for me, and giving me his Advice of the Usefulness of my Writing any more to the B——d, for that L——d B——n, had enquired into the Matter, and could not recommend it; on which I return'd him Thanks, and signified my Hopes of his Lordship's not being displeased if I went any where else with my Case; his Lordship said with a Smile, No; and I wish you Success.

I should think myself greatly wanting to my Duty if I pass'd over in Silence the frequent Courtesies of my Lord *Duncannon*, shewn me in the several Interviews he condescended to honour me with at his own House, for which I hope his Lordship will please to accept this my publick Tribute of my Thanks, verily believing there was nothing wanting on his part to facilitate my Business at his Lordship's B——d.

After this Defeat, I waited on several Honourable Members of Parliament, to obtain an Enquiry into the State of the Victualling the Royal Navy, before the Bar of the Honourable House of Commons, but could not procure it, to the great Prejudice of the Crown, in the no less barbarous than prodigally lavishing away the Lives of the poor Navy Men, as well as the Government's Money, as may appear by what has been already set forth and what follows, exclusive of many consequential Concerns more likely to die with me than to be made known, being so indifferently treated for the Good I had already done my King and Country, which will be ever dear to me. I hope none will think me imprudent in this, as there is some little Charity due for the Care and Support of a Man's own private Family, as well as the great Family of the Nation. With this view it is rational to think that the Labourer should exempt himself from any farther Care, his Reward being withheld for his past Services.

The following was vouched to me at *Portsmouth* to be true as practised by the Victualling Office there, and made Oath of before Mr. Alderman *Chandler*, at *Portsmouth*, by the following

following Men employed in the Flesh Branch of the said Office.

Robert Hellyer,
Jeremiah Liphook,
William Grigg,
John Collins.

That they frequently were obliged to kill and salt measly Hogs and Bull Stags, for Sea Stores,

That the late Mr. *Lee* a Contractor, frequently obliged the Men to weigh the Scull Pieces of Oxen and Hogs, to make Deficiency of Weight, also Kidney Fat for the above Reasons.

That the late Mr. *Lee* was often seen (when Oxen did not weigh according to Contract) to put his Foot into the Scale to weigh it down, to make the Draft good.

That they have frequently salted Hogs that died in the Styes; that once on a certain time *Jeremiah Liphook* was obliged to cut a Hog that died in the Styes, which proved so bad and stinking, that they were obliged afterwards to throw it into the Necessary-House, but did not tell me whose Loss it was.

That Hogs have frequently been weighed with the Feet only cut off, to make up Weight. And the said *Liphook* observed seventeen measly Hogs in one Day killed and salted. Mr. *Liphook* further observed, that when Mr. *Brownsworth* had the Contract for Oxen at *Portsmouth*, he had many return'd to him, out of Pique by the Clerks, as was supposed.

The Remarks made of the Practice of Victualling at *Plymouth* I have by accident lost, therefore cannot say any thing more authentic of that Victualling Port, than what I tender'd to Mr. Alderman *Janssen*, then one of the Members of Parliament for the City of *London*, who was struck with amazement, and gave himself the Trouble of Writing to one of his Correspondents at *Plymouth* for better Information; and to his greater Surprise was answered by a Detail of Circumstances seemingly much more incredible. But one Instance of the corrupt Victualling of the Royal Navy, occur'd whilst I was there, and this too extraordinary to be forgot, was the late Admiral *Martin's* bringing into *Plymouth* Hospital and sick Quarters, such an incredible Number of sick Men, as can best be verified by the Books of the sick and dead List, if not falsified, at his return from a six Weeks Cruize, to intercept Mons. *D'Anville*, who then commanded the *Brest* Squadron

Squadron. The Sickness by the Report of the Admiral, and unanimous Opinion of all, both Officers and common Men, was owing to the badness of their Provisions ; if so, it will be easy for a common Capacity to determine what must have become of Admiral *Martin's* whole Squadron, if *Monf. De Anville* had given him Battle.

In *Rochester* Court may be found recorded a Trial between *Mr. George C——r*, Contractor, and the Mayor of the said City, in 1745, concerning the killing of a distempered Ox, designed as petty Warrant for Ships at the *Nore*, before Lord Chief Justice *Lee*. The Council for the Plaintiff *Mr. C——r*, were Messrs. *Gwyn* and *Robinson* ; for the Defendant, *Mr. Knowler*, Recorder of *Canterbury*, and *Mr. Brooks*, Recorder of *Rochester*, which was determined in favour of the Defendant ; notwithstanding which, many Oxen were some Time after killed out of a sick Stock, many of which I saw after Shot in 1747, in the Month of *November*.

Having thus far considered the Out-Ports Victualling-Offices, I shall proceed to shew some Transactions that have been, if not still are practised at the *London* Victualling Office.

First as to the Oxen.

They are in general *Lincolnshire* Steers, which after they have been drawn by Work to a proper Time and Size, are afterwards pastured to graze, (not stall'd as Sea Service requires) during the Time the Owners think convenient. Being drove up to Town for slaughter, many of them might put some Judges in Horse-Flesh at a Stand to distinguish them from cast-off Hunters, turn'd upon the Road for Post Chaise Service, were they docked and pruned before and behind. But asking Pardon for this Burlesque, I will show they are not fit for Sea Stores ; which is proved by their Weight at the Scale, when weighing in for the King. They do not always Weigh six Hundred Weight, the Standard of Contract, tho' large shewy Oxen. The Ribs of some of them by being Worked into a Round, and a Candle put therein, a glimmering Light has been seen thorough, as through a Dark Lanthorn ; which I humbly conceive will not be disputed, when 150 kill'd in one Day in the Year 1744, out of *Mr. S—p's* Contract, did not produce many more Pieces than 80 kill'd in one Day in *Queen Anne's* War, as may be seen by the Cutting House Books if not cancell'd. But further it is to be observed, if these Oxen do not weigh this weight, the practice

tice of Matrimony is then introduced, which being a Cant-Term used as Occasion requires in the King's Service, and therefore not by every one understood, I shall endeavour to explain. It is Weighing the Fore Quarter of a heavy Ox with the Hind Quarter of a light Ox, by which conjugated State they sometimes produce the Standard Weight without Footing or Handing the Scale. In proceeding to the Slaughter it will be found they are neither sufficiently blooded, nor dressed in any tolerable manner more than hiding, and dragging them afterwards through their own Filth, and so hanging them up to be ready for salting, with the stagnated and too often bruised Blood for the Salt to purge out; but no more of that, nor of salting Oxen that they have kill'd after they have died of themselves as they call it. At the Time of the late Mr. Guy's making his Experiment in 1745. he brought several eminent Master Butchers to survey Oxen that he refused salting, which on the Survey they all agreed not to be fit for Sea-Stores. Notwithstanding they were salted by the King's Salters. Those who are used to salting Meat, I believe will allow that the Juices of lean Meat will be sooner extracted by the prevailing Force of strong salting and pickling, than the Juices of fat Meat, which Fat nourishes the Lean and resists the power of the Salt, keeping it from too rigidly preying thereon. From these Occurrences, the different Practice compared of buying Oxen, with regard to the King's and the *East-India* Company's Service, will be found very great. I presume it will not be an immodest Question to ask of any that can tell, why our Sons of War are to be served after our Sons of Toy-Trade, it being well known, that after the *India* Company have pick'd the Flower of the Market, the King is then permitted to come in to glean up the Stubble.

Conditions of the Hog Contract.

THAT they shall not be fed with Graves, Oil, Cakes, Horse-Flesh, or any other distempered Flesh, under Pain of Forfeiture of Contract, &c.

How the above is complied with, may be found by Enquiry.

Distillers fed-Hogs, every one knows the King is supplied with. But as to their Fitness, all may judge that loose Feeding will produce loose Flesh, as firm Feeding will firm Flesh, which granted, it will not be a difficult Solution to know which will keep longest and nourish most, Flesh fed with

Wash or hot Wort, or Flesh fed with good Pease, Beans, Acorns, &c. and in the end, which will be cheapest, the Country or Town Hog? Therefore, supposing the Country Hog costs twice as much as the Town Hog, what will it signify, if his Flesh endures twice as long, and answers the end of Food in well nourishing the Consumer. This the Town Hog cannot be expected to do, his Flesh being so loose and spongy, that whilst under the Randers and Messers Coarces in cutting up, I have often seen the stinking oily Substance of the Flesh, fly up to the Beams of the Cutting House. However, these Hogs, though stinking, were salted, and the Salters were punished for not making them sweet, as before set forth, a thing impracticable. Often they stink whilst killing, another Instance of which appeared the last Year, when eight hundred were no sooner killed than found stinking. What is more vile, Sows are killed, which when ripped up, their Pigs full grown, and by Nature's Laws knocking at their Prison Door for an Enlargement, have been frequently seen tumbling out of the Bellies of their Dams crawling with Life, and rather seeming to expect the Brute's natural Succour, than a Dunghill, some of which Pigs, I am informed, have been actually rear'd up by Hand to a full grown State. That the Flesh of such washy fed Sows is loose and flabby, and unfit for taking Salt needs no great Study to know.

Another Circumstance of the abominable Practice of killing Distillers fed Hogs (and some others I have been told worse fed, that is, on Whales Flesh and killed for the King's Service) I cannot omit mentioning. This is the Annoyance these stinking Animals are of to the Inhabitants and Passengers that pass by in their driving for Slaughter. They are frequently seen almost choaked with the Murrain, Cough, and some so greatly infected therewith, as not to be able to stand to feed. From this it will not be thought incredible, that the Owners of such Hogs are often under a Necessity of sending them by Carriages, which I have seen many and many a Cart and Waggon Load of brought into the King's London Victualling Office, and Slaughtered, Salted, Pack'd, Cooper'd, Pickled, &c. at the Nation's great Expence. The Skins of some of those Hogs, I have seen as full of Scabs and Blotches, as a Horse or Dog infected in the foulest Degree with the Mange; and I must suppose, to prevent offending the Eyes of the Consumer, the Skins of those Hogs were head off, equally as the Hide of an Ox. To which may be added

added, the frequent cutting of the large and lank Udders of old Breeding Sows, and throwing them also aside for the above Reason of fleaing them. This too I have remarked ; besides which, I cannot omit setting forth a very striking and cruel Circumstance, in the Process of barbarously murdering these Animals ; being first knocked down with a Bludgeon, like the *Herculean Club*, by a Man-Monster appointed for that Purpose. on which he is immediately succeeded by another Savage Tormenter in human Form, who makes an Incision in the tortured Animal, to produce the Appearance of some Blood. The Executioner satisfied with the Performance of his Duty, the Swine is then instantly delivered up in Charge to other wanton unmerciful Barbarians, who drag them to a large Copper of Scalding Water, not much unlike the *Stygean Lake* ; into this they are thrown, not only to loosen their Hair, but for the Entertainment and Diversion of these Fiends of Horror, in delighting themselves with the Screams and Struggles these miserable Creatures exhibit in this their then half murdered Execution. From which manner of Proceeding, the Validity of what I have before shewn of the Pigs torn from the Dams, and seen in Motion and crawling alive, will not now be disputed.

I beg leave to ask one Question ; who among all the Distillers Servants choose to eat the Flesh of those Hogs their Masters feed ? If then Servants, have an Aversion to such Food, must it not be wondered at, that the Children of *England*, knowing also the manner of Slaughtering them, should be like the Children of *Israel*, whom the Prophet *Elisha* describes crying out, *there is Poison in the Pot, and we will not eat thereof.*

And further according to Mr. *John Lloyd's* late account to me, the Flesh so called of Town Hogs is not properly Flesh, but Slush, or Blubber, like Whales Blubber. Such Flesh is easily perceived not to be fit for Sea Stores by its Colour when compared with the real Flesh, that of Country Hogs ; the Blubber of the Town Hog being of a dead, pale, and whey Colour, whereas the good and wholesome Juices of the Country Hog will shew themselves in a fine clear, blooming, and enlivening Red. As to their difference in Duration, it may be tried by any that will make the Experiment ; which is by turning one of each into Bacon. In this practice the Town-Hog will perish in one Year, but the Country Hog will endure two, three, or more Years, and still be very good and wholesome.

Being thus bountifully supplied with these Swarms of heterogeneous Beings for our brave Tars, (and Tartars too if they were better fed) by the several and truly worthy Worshipful Members of the Company of D——s, our Warm-hearted and vital-healing Friends; I think as the Nation's Thanks are greatly their due, it would be a Neglect in me on this publick Occasion to pass them over unnoticed. Their Ingenuity and Charity to these poor distressed Navy-Men, whose Cause they have so wisely undertaken in eradicating out of them the Seeds and Fruit of Scorbutick and Leprous Habits of Body, their original Friends have introduced by an inward application of Causticks, to burn them all up Root and Branch, the most effectual manner of destroying all future Grumbings.—Every Labourer being worthy of his Hire, I make no doubt but every one will readily concur in believing, that these very useful Gentlemen should be well paid, and also encouraged for having studied that beneficial Science of Distillery to such Perfection as by a Chymical sublimation to inflate into substantial Forms, so many invaluable Jewels, for a source of National Wealth, for the Improvement of Money and Stock, and for destroying raging Distempers in the Human Species. Those that are well skill'd in that noble Science of Distillery, can better tell than I can be informed, how they can afford to sell Spirits after they have worked them twice over much cheaper than they can afford to sell them when they have work'd them through their Stills but once. No doubt they can also tell what use those inflammatory Combustibles, Aqua-Fortis, Alum, and Spirits of various Salts, and the hottest, burning, scorching, Drugs that can be procured are of, if any such are used in Spirits wrought up a second time. 'Tis true as the first Purchase of Aqua Fortis, &c. is but small, and the Liquor or Water costs but little wrought up therewith, the Purse benefit arising from them may be supposed moderately sufficient to defray the second Expence of working the Lungs of these poor deluded Navy Men, their Stills purifying them from all the Dross corrupt Food has introduced. Hence it is that they content themselves with the comfortable Satisfaction of knowing how useful they have been to the Publick in burning under their Stills, what some Men call all the Rubbish in the Nation, which their very good Friends, the top of the Physical Faculty can verify; and at a time when if I am rightly informed their Opinion was called for at the first introducing the use of *English* Brandy, as an Antiscorbutick in the Royal Navy, to which they acquiesced as very proper and expedient.

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As the Royal Navy Men's Advocate in boldly pleading their Cause, and as their Friend, it would ill suit my Design and the Good-will I bear them, to be a means of raising Enemies against them, who might formerly be so by inadvertance, and through the D — s giving in to the Physicians a false Account of their Composition in the practice of making *English* Brandy, instead of the genuine : On this supposition I beg to be allowed to recover myself, and to be admitted into favour again, for the sake of my Clients, and to lay before the judicious Gentlemen that are well skill'd in Nature, and Remedies to assist in times of Need. I mean the learned and honest Physicians, that they will please to consider on, and give their Opinions.

For a further Benefit for these good Fellows the Royal Seamen, these Gentlemen will also consider, that a sufficient Quantity of Cooling and Antiscorbutick Herbs, such as Mint, Balm, Sage, Rue, Ground-Ivy, &c. will not be unnecessary, and also Greens and Roots of different sorts, to eat with their Salt Provisions on short Cruizes, and when stationed near any Port.

It would be a Pity to keep Secret a late Instance of their Wisdom and Goodness, which is their newly invented Art of Jelly making, with a handsome Salary for Mr. Operator. This was brought about to deprive poor labouring Men of a little Privilege, not exceeding two or four Pence in Value, which if I am rightly informed, was granted to the Workmen of the Victualling, by good Queen *Elizabeth*, agreeably to the Scripture Phrase, that says, *Thou shalt not muzzle the Ox that treads out the Corn*. By this Donation I mean, the Legs, Shins, and Marrow-Bones of Oxen, which are not fit for Sea Service. This superlative Goodness is an Alteration great indeed, and greater yet, when rather than the Labourer, and the Poor should have them, they are destined as Provision for their Kennels of Hounds. With Submission, if Jellies can be considered as useful Sea Stores, would it not be more to the Credit of their Gripping H—— to spare some of their own Perquisites for so laudable an Undertaking, than to rob their Dogs and poor Men of their Expectations.

Being by Profession a Cooper, it may be expected I should set forth something relating to another material Part of the Victualling, in that of Coopering. That the Reader therefore, may not be altogether Disappointed, I take upon me to conduct him to *Ireland*, where he will find the Legs,
Shins,

Shins, Marrow-Bones, and Horn Pieces of Oxen, the Heads, Feet, and Tails of Hogs, pack'd into slight Casks that seldom are found with any Pickle in them after their being a short time filled. I leave to be determined by the superior Wisdom of the Contracting Coopers that undermine one another unfriendly, how I must suppose, rather to acquire a great Name than a moderate Livelihood, they can better afford to sell to the King for less Money, than they sell to the Merchants and Town Traders, and let them also shew their Prudence in so doing, being often found to contract for less Money than the Timber and Workmanship stand them in.

The next Article in Coopering, may be considered of the Journeymen Coopers employed under the Direction of the Victuallers, in respect to their Pay and Usage. They work in the King's Service for much lower Prices than in that of Merchants; and have been often known to pay One, Two, and Three Shillings in the Pound Discount for their Money, exclusive of the Imposition of Clerks Fees to obtain their Notes, &c. and without the Privilege of Chips and Small Beer, as in Town-Trade allowed, with their Wages paid every Saturday Night. To prevent the Coopers making Chips, a Handle to carry Stores out of the Office, it has been thought proper to deprive them all indiscriminately of the Privilege, rather than punish a single Offender. How far this is equitable may be easily judged; as also, that it should not revert, as a Perquisite to their H——rs, when the Usefulness of allowing the Return of these ancient Privileges to the Men, and continuing them well paid, is considered with the Advantage that may accrue to them, and their O——s, in having in their several Hands the Money arising from such things as these, and condemned Stores to qualify them for Usurers, Stock-Brokers, and Merchants in sundry Sorts of Traffick, and the better to enable them to extend their Trade. On this Principle also, it may be admitted, that the more Stores there are condemned, the more Money they consequently may have to extend their different Parts of Trade. From which Advantage it is no longer a Wonder, such perished Stores should be bought up, as are herein set forth. To prevent these evil Practices for the future, I do humbly propose, that the Money arising from the Produce of the above, be henceforward rather made Use of in paying poor Men their Wages, who can less afford to wait for their small and hard Earnings, than those great Men, for their large and easy-got Salaries paid them Quarterly. If this was observed

it would naturally follow, these warranted Gentlemen in Office, might be more circumspect in their Duty, and more constant also to prevent the Government's being imposed on by parsimonious Contractors.

What I mean by the Journeymen being well paid, as before hinted, is to be understood paying them Merchants Prices, and in a regular Time, together with the Privilege of their Chips of a Penny *per Diem* at most, and Allowance of small Beer. Such a Regulation would be productive thus far of a National Interest, as it would be a means of drawing into the King's Service the best and most reputable Journeymen of the Trade, many of whom are Gentlemens Sons, and well educated, above the Reach of Scandal, and whose Notions of Honour would direct them, as being well satisfied for their Labour, with Gratitude to perform it well. Casks would then be turn'd out of their Hands, fit for the several Purposes they are designed for, and much more to the Government's Account, than by having them half made, and with defective Timber, on the Terms they now are; and often to the Prejudice of the several Sorts of Species contained therein. Every one will own, that it cannot be expected a Man should perform good Work on the same Terms he is paid for bad: Such Custom would be the most effectual way for destroying the Spirit of Emulation in excelling one another; for it is of no Significancy to effect Matters in Haste, and with bad Materials, without Regard to the Truths of Workmanship. However inconsiderable this may appear to ordinary Judges, yet to Men of Understanding, good Cooperage will be found productive of good Package, the Fundamental Pillar in Trade and Domestick Service, as on it greatly depends the good or ill preserving of the Commodity therein contained. I will not take upon me to say, that the 500 Tons of Beer, or thereabouts, out of 800 Tons, or thereabouts, near four Months ago sent, from the *London* to *Portsmouth* Victualling Office, and started into the Sea, (to be proved per Issue Books of *London* Victualling Office) being condemned as unserviceable, was owing to bad Casks; not but that I could shew Cause why it might be so, according to such Practice, which is no Secret among themselves. This Beer being designed for Ships at *Spithead*, I hope it will not be thought impertinent to enquire whether this Disappointment did not retard the Sailing of those Ships, if they had then sailing Orders; or if the Fleet sailed without Small Beer Allowance, whether it can be called serving it at all; and who receives

receives the Benefit of Short Allowance-Money in those Deficiencies, if any is granted?

The following are certain Informations lately received, to be proved by Evidence when ever required.

That about one Year and a half ago, Sir T—— R——, contracting Brewer at *Portsmouth*, brewed a Guile of Beer for the King, filled into sixty of the King's Butts, or thereabouts. It proved so bad as to occasion a Survey thereon. Accordingly being by the Surveyors condemned as unserviceable, tho' but four Days old or thereabouts, the Badness was believed to be owing to the Fault of the Casks the Beer was filled into. After the condemning of this whole Guile of Beer (which was on the public Keys) about ten Butts of the best of it, was bought by the poor Inhabitants of the Town, and all the rest rejected.

That some little Time ago, near a Hoy Load of Rotten Flags was sent from the *London* to the *Portsmouth* Victualling Office, which could not be used.

That the Labourers of *Portsmouth* Victualling Office are frequently employed in extra Hours, from four to eight o'Clock in the Morning, for want of necessary Business to work Mischief in cutting up good and serviceable Iron Hoops, much like the former Practice at *Tower-hill*.

That the Timber in general sent into *Portsmouth* Victualling-yard was much complained of by the Workmen, as not fit for making tight Casks.

The large Quantity of rotten Hoops sent into the *London* Victualling Office, is hardly worth Notice, when opposed to the more consequential Parts of victualling the Royal Navy.

As the well probing of an old Wound may be a great Means to facilitate a Cure; so to remedy these public inveterate Vices, we should carefully examine into their Sources, and see if the Contracts are not one of their principal Causes. It is to me a Sollecism, that the Buyer should expect the Seller could be at any Rate able fairly to covenant with him for the Quantity and Quality of any Thing to be delivered at a fixed Time, for a Price not only much below the Market Price, but sometimes little more than half the Market Price, and to give at the same Time very long Credit.

If so, as certainly it is, can this Buyer reasonably think that he shall not be imposed on by the Artifice of the Seller. If the Buyer is a good Judge of the Goods he buys,

and withal diligent and circumspect in seeing himself his Business executed, then what Hopes can a Seller have of foisting upon the Buyer a Commodity vastly short of the Conditions of the Bargain. Surely he must sustain a considerable Loss by his Agreement. At best, both must act collusively, like two knavish Lawyers for a mutual Benefit. But be that as it will, I beg Leave to offer my Opinion of a Method, which would be much better in Practice. It is, that the King, for the future, may give as good a Market Price for what is hereafter bought for him, as the trading Subject does, and pay in Time as well.

By PERMISSION.

The following is inserted, being the Conduct of Mr. JOHN LLOYD, late Inspector of the Dry Stores of his Majesty's Victualling-Office, London, as delivered to me in the last War, viz.

I.

I Returned for several Days three or four Load *per* Day of Meal, &c. the Goods of Mr. *L'Fever* and Company, being very bad, and unfit for Use.

2.

Returned in one Day a Waggon, and three Cart Loads of Meal, the Goods of Mr. *L'Fever*, they being very foul and bad.

3.

Returned thirty seven Sacks of Flour, the Goods of Mr. *Smith*. Mr. *Blanchet* opposed me at the Board, and shewed some good Flour that was put into the Mouth of one Sack, upon which I cut open the Bottom of the same Sack, where the Flour was exceeding bad, and all the other thirty six Sacks were of the same bad Sort. Mr. *Blanchet* then pleaded with me not to insist on returning the Goods, for it would be above one hundred Pounds out of the Contractor's Way if they were returned, but I was peremptory, and they were returned.

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Objected against about forty Quarters of Grotts sent in by Mr. *Slap*. They were good Corn, but so very foul I could not pass them. Messrs. *Marston* and *Harper* being present, agreed with me in Opinion, and Mr. *Slap* promised to change them if I would not acquaint the Board with it. But while I was at the King's Mills, these very Grotts were barrell'd off.

5.

Returned forty two Quarters of Grotts, the Goods of Mr. *Pew*, they being very foul, and unfit for Use.

6.

By Mr. *Marston's* Directions there was one hundred and fifty Quarters of Peas barrell'd up, and sent on Board a Vessel, which I got a Sample of, and objected against, they being very unfit for Use ; but by my Order being brought back, they were then properly Kill-dried, and barrell'd up again.

7.

Objected against thirty six Barrels of Rice which were full of Maggots, and were barrell'd off by Mr. *Marston's* Direction for petty Warrant, but were stop'd on my Complaint.

Note, The C——s disputed Mr. *Lloyd's* Veracity, on his producing at their Board Samples of these corrupt Rice Stores, telling him that he must have collected them some where else.

8.

Returned twelve Quarters of Grotts and Oat Meal, the Goods of Mr. *Brand*, being very foul, and not thoroughly Kill-dried.

9.

Since the Death of Mr. *Marston*, objected against about sixteen Quarters of Grotts, the Goods of Mr. *Pew*, being very foul and bad, and having about the Quantity of a Bushel of good Grotts, the Goods of another Man put in the Top of every Cask..

10. Upon

10.

Upon examining the Bread at the King's Mills, I daily found large Quantities of Dust or Ashes put in the Bags amongst it, and upon my desiring it to be cleaned, that it might be good and wholesome, they always answered, that they were to mind their Master, Mr. *Thorogood's* Orders, and not mine, and so would not do it.

11.

I have often desired the Grinder not to pick his Mill so often with the sharp Pikes, or to keep it so rough; for by grinding so coarse, all the Profit of the Corn goes into the Bran, which greatly lessens the Goodness of the Bread.

12.

Whatever I ordered to be done by any under my Direction, was daily made void, by the Store-keeper's forbidding the Men to mind any Thing I said, which frequently occasioned a Confusion and Neglect of Business.

13.

There are several Minutes of these Disputes and Transactions filed in the Victualling Office.

JOHN LLOYD of the Parish of St. *Clement's Danes, London*, Baker, makes Oath, that the thirteen Articles concerning dry Stores, formerly belonging to his Majesty's Victualling Office, *London*, as set forth by Permission, in *William Thompson's* Treatise of the corrupt Practice of victualling the Royal Navy, to be the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

[*So help me God.*]

JOHN LLOYD

Sworn in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, 31 Decemb. 1756, *before*

R. EDWARDS,
a Master in Chancery.

With Submission to Mr. *Lloyd*, I subjoin this Remark, to shew how useful his Majesty's Victualling Office is, and handy too, to the D——rs the chief Contractors in said *Lloyd's* Account of Dry Stores, and they to the Nation, in

every Way, not losing, but turning a Penny, by supplying the King with Grain for his distressed Subjects on the Seas, that is not fit for their Stills, nor very much so for their Hogs. How far their Honours might be interested in these and other Contracts, I am not clear in, I say nothing of; nor of the Traffick in foreign Wines, &c. that may be returned in Barter for ——— Messieurs *H—l* and *Revell*, by charging *Lloyd* to give Grains of Allowance to the Contractors, without he had a Mind to be discharged, the same might be a Foundation for a shrewd Suspicion that they had a more than ordinary Interest in Contracts. If they had not, what could induce them to prefer gratifying private Friendship to their publick Duty? If they had an Interest in these Things, and what has been already observed, it is no longer a Wonder that they could leap into their Coaches in two or three Years after their being in the C——n of V——g, and in a few Years more leaving 2 or 300000 *l.* behind, for portioning out one of the greatest Heiresses in *England*.

Having borrowed this Account of Dry Stores from Mr. *John Lloyd*, in Justice to his Character, and profound Knowledge I do declare it. He was not admitted to his Inspectorship of Dry Stores, till he had passed his Examination before twelve eminent Corn-chandlers, Meal-men and Bakers, by the Victualling C——rs Appointment at the *Queen's-Head Tavern on Tower-Hill*. All of them submitted to his superior Skill, which was reported to the Victualling-Board, and thereupon he was immediately appointed to inspect all the King's Victualling Dry Stores at *London*. The Accidents concurring to Mr. *Lloyd's* being appointed to the said Inspectorship, were as follows. He was bred a Baker, and being well-skilled in the Quality of all Sorts of Grain, practised the same for forty Years and upwards as a Master in *Westminster*, and had then the Honour of serving the Families of most of the Nobility and Gentry there with Bread. By unavoidable Accidents he met with such Misfortunes, as put him under a Necessity of accepting a little Employ in his Majesty's Victualling-Office, *London*, to which he was strongly recommended by a great many of his former Customers, some of whom were then sitting Members of the honourable House of Commons.

The sound Judgment he shewed in proving the Quality of these Stores, soon caused him to be taken Notice of, and the Consequence was his being appointed by the C——rs, Inspector,

Inspector, as before set forth ; as if thereby a deep Design had been laid to remove the good Subject from the Service of the best of Kings, they raised him to an Exaltation of Favour for no other Purpose than, when he was debased from the Pinnacle he was placed on, to make his Disgrace and Fall the greater : for while he was in his Inspectorship, his Conduct shews how the Engines work'd to get him discharged, and well for him it was so, being threatned to be murdered by one of his Superiors, for the Execution of what was only his Duty. He lately offered his Service again to be employed in the said Office, but was told by one of the C——rs, they did not want any such Person.

The following is the said *Lloyd's* Opinion of the Causes of the Damages sustained by, and the Disorders accruing to the Royal Navy-Men, by being fed with putrid Pulse. The Substance of this Pulse is devoured by the Weevils, which are small Insects scarcely visible to the naked Eye, but so rapacious, that they eat up the Substance of all Sorts of Grain. By the Subtlety of their Nature they incorporate themselves with the Substance, and in its Stead leave their baneful Poison, and offensive Excrement behind. On this the Consumer feeds, and not on the Flour and Heart of the Grain, which is exhausted ; and while he imagines he is sucking in the Nourishment of Life, it proves to be Poison indeed, and the Arrows of Death that fly at Noon-day, breeding and nourishing LICE, INDOLENCE, INACTIVITY, and raging SCORBUTIC and LEPROUS Habits of Body. From such Circumstances as these, surely it will be judged, that these our bravest Friends are in a living Condition, if it can be called living : I think not, but rather a poisoning and starving way of living, and undergoing a deep studied Punishment suited to the Actors of some horrible Crime.

Blood thirsty, yet thrifty Managers may lavish as much of the Nation's Money as they please to wash away the Swarms of Lice and other Vermin they by their righteous Practices have pestered poor Men with. It is a ravishing Sight to see the Swarms of Vermin cleared from off the Ships Decks, by means of large Quantities of Vinegar bought for that Purpose. But it will always be so remediless and inextricable, unless these Gentlemen intend to purge their own Consciences first, if they have any, and afterwards to provide the Seamen with wholesomer Food.

Now seeing these things are so, and that some wicked

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Perpetrators of deep and Hell-born Iniquity, and Monsters of the human Species, have thus traiterously and wantonly betrayed their Trust, and imbezzled the Wealth and Strength of the Nation in this more than cannibal and savage Manner, of sucking the Blood and tearing the Bodies of the Seamen in Pieces, by buying for their Subsistence with large Sums of Money, what the Brute Part of the Creation have loathed he coming near.

I say, as these Things are so, what can they plead, why the same ancient Judgment should not be pronounced against them, which was against the disobedient Servant, who knew his Master's Will and would not do it; and why the Wealth they have acquired by Rapine and Fraud should not revert to the very Uses they made instrumental to their unjust Acquisitions. May their Houses may be made a Dunghil, and may their Names be clean blotted out, and remembered no more. If they are bold enough to plead Ignorance, still let them be cast into outer Darkness, for presuming to sit as Managers of the most *consequential public Concerns*, with a self *Conviction* of barren unqualified Minds, and never at any Time robed with those necessary Parts of Knowledge suitable to the Seats they filled. Before I give them up to be buffeted, let them but gently cast their Eyes around them, and I will shew them a Mirrour to view themselves in. Behold the Men thus cruelly treated by you, languishing in their Hammocks, and tiresome Beds of Hospitals and Sick Quarters, with poisoned Constitutions and diseased Limbs!

View them in Irons, and several cruel Punishments, as Mutineers, for complaining of their nauseating the Food you have provided for their Destruction, not Subsistence!

See the *lonely Widows* sad Countenances; the Cries of *hungry Orphans*; the Dejection of *antient Parents*, bending their grey Hairs with Sorrow to the Grave, for the untimely and barbarous ravishing away from them their Hopes, their Joy, their Support, their every Thing that gave them once a Relish for the Sweets of Life!

See the *Nation's Discontents* for embezzling the large Sums of Money cheerfully granted for honest Uses!

See the Glory of the King's Arms eclipsed, for Want of honest Purveyors. The King, whose Graciousness had some of them rise from the Dunghil they were lately seated on, to a more excellent Degree of Glory! See the *Aegean* Stables

Stables you have filthily filled, and the vast Labour you have left for a faithful Ministry to cleanse !

See the good Subjects, *Living Monuments* of your ingrate and monstrous Conduct, removed from their zealous Employ, and religious Duty to their King and Country, and from your own poor Honour and Credit !

Now let them declare whether they have well used or abused their Power, or that the Injustice of the Sentence they are doomed to is hard ; and let them judge how Heaven must be displeased at their wresting out of the Hands of God, a Power which to him only belongs : The Power of Life and Death, by destroying in havocking Pride and large Numbers, the innocent and brave Images of his divine Person.

Well may his sacred Majesty, like the tender Parent, bid all his Sons repent, if such Wickednesses as these have been long committed in our Land. Well may we be by him called upon, to turn to the Lord in Weeping, Fasting, and Prayer, when our flagrant Sins are gone up amidst Mouths loaded with Blood, as loud Witnesses to Heaven against us ; seeing we had Ears and would not hear, Eyes and would not see, Understanding and would not seek after Honesty, or such Things as belong to our Peace : and well if now it is not too late to expect other than their being for ever hid from our Eyes.

To prevent in some Measure all Complaints, I humbly recommend, that for the future there may be joint Purfers appointed to the King's Ships, consisting of such Tradesmen as are well versed in the different Branches of victualling ; these are Brewers, Bakers, Mealmen, Farmers, Butchers, Coopers, &c. Coopers, every one knows, are not only of Consequence on board of Ships, as they now stand employed, but the best Judges of coopering Packages The well preserving of the Commodity must intirely depend on the Goodness of the Cask, of which a Cooper must be allowed to be the best Judge. If appointed by Warrant to act in Conjunction with a Mealman, &c. as Purfers, they must be supposed to understand Grain and all Sorts of Victualling Stores, better than Gentlemen who never were in the Way of acquiring any Knowledge therein. Upon this it will follow, that Tradesmen are the fittest to be Purfers on Board of the King's Ships, as the best Judges of Casks, Grain, &c. less subject to be imposed on by avaricious

ricious or overbearing Men in Office, on whom they will be a great Check, and more so, if they may be impowered as far as Circumstances will suit to attend the different Offices they victual from, and to inspect the Stores designed for their several Ships, before they are issued. I beg that those who are great in Power will not condemn me too severely for my good and disinterested Sincerity to assist in serving the Publick at this Time of Need, with my poor Mite, wholly calculated for their future Good. Those Gentlemen who are now Purfers, will also be favourable in their Censures of me, being in themselves convinced of their Insufficiency to defend themselves against those in Office, they have been sordidly and insultingly misused by, in their Provisions, &c.

These Things properly attended to, and withal keeping the Seamen well paid, would soon silence all Objections against entering into the King's Service, and would render unnecessary the Violence now used in the Felonious and Dog-like forcing of Men into the Royal Navy from their sufficient Employ for their Family's Subsistence; they then would rather be disposed to make Interest to be admitted into King's Ships, that are well provided with Necessaries for continuing their Health and Well-being, with a confident Hope, that if by Chance of War they should be wounded, they would not be pushed out of their Inheritance, the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*, by Footmen, &c. by whom they are reported to have been excluded their Precedency, and fraudulently driven from their regal and legal Heirship to the distressed Necessity of exposing their maimed and dismembered Bodies, with doleful Cries at the Corners of every Street, and public Place, to excite the Compassion of those for a Morsel of Bread, they have gallantly fought for, whilst Interlopers, by Tyranny, are feasting and revelling on their Portion. Some, by Enquiry, may be found, as I am informed, Men of Fortune and Property, much more able to bestow than to live on the Succours of Charity, and such Charity as was never designed by its original Institution for the Relief of any other than the unfortunate Royal Seamen.

If these Things be worth attending to, then for a further Satisfaction, see the Books of the Sick and Dead List, and comparing them with those slain in Battle, not unlikely there may be more found to die in their Hammocks during

a Month's Cruise, than are lost in an Engagement of eight and forty Hours Continuance.

By the same Methods also may be seen what Quantities of Provisions may be found unserviceable and condemned, both before and after issuing, when compared with the several Contracts, and Books of the Clerks in the different Offices they occupy.

And now I do say and abide by it, if these Things were properly attended to, that then our dear Boys would

*With well-strung Nerves aid their Country's Cause,
And strongly wield the threat'ning Sword she draws.*

If the Reader thinks this worthy of his serious Attention, I hope I shall not greatly err in placing Things in two opposite Lights for his Consideration, yet at the same Time begging Forgiveness for dabbling in Politicks : but be my Fate what it will, my Thoughts flow from an honest Mind. It is a short and obvious Question, why there can't be found in this Nation a Man as capable as the late Sir *John Parsons* to sit as sole Commissioner of the Victualling, and if no one such can be found, why three Men can't be found out among all the Bakers, Mealmen, Graziers, Brewers, &c. in the three Nations, of Credit, Character, and well-skilled in their several Professions, and in the different Species of Victualling. If three such may be heard of, why should not the People of *England* be better satisfied in their having the Direction of the momentous Concern of victualling the Royal Navy, than seven mischievous Men, who neither did know, or would be taught any Thing about the Matter ; some of whom seldom attend the Board oftner than at the Time of receiving their Salaries, unless directed thereto by their Superiors on some extraordinary Occasions, such as perhaps the discharging of innocent Men to screen themselves.

To correct the Understanding of those who may think I publish these Tracts for Gain, or out of Pride, or Malice to any one ; be it known I do not : my Principles purely humane and benevolent, I imbibed from my Parent, a celebrated orthodox Divine of the Church of *England*. I am as free from Schism as Enthusiasm ; and following the Example of my great Leader, the Captain of my Salvation, I prefer a Life of Poverty, and to be accounted a Man
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of Sorrows, before conniving at wicked Practices in any publick Employment. In this Capacity I have met with great Difficulties and ill Treatment for my upright Intentions. These I have sufficiently set forth in an ample Manner, and to them I may add the great Arrears still due to me from the honourable B—d, who, instead of Payment, will rather think me deserving of a further Punishment for this Undertaking, than a just Reward for my Assiduity and Faithfulness. However I console myself that I have discharged my Duty, in laying open to public View so many Scenes of Iniquity, hoping, for the future, proper Methods may be taken to prevent them.

Now my Hand is in, I think I may as well advance one Thing more, as it is likely to be the last Specimen of good Will I shall ever shew my King and Country, which I leave as a Blessing for Want of any Thing better. This is, that an Act be passed, disqualifying Men of all Denominations that accept of Pensions, Places, or Employments from and under the Government, to vote for Members of Parliament: It will in some Measure be a Means of banishing that infernal Hag, Corruption, into more distant Climes. It will make Elections more the free Choice of the People; and by it the public Business will be better executed in the several Offices, with fewer Incumbrances, and at less Expence. How far these Sketches of my narrow Intellects may coincide with his Majesty's most gracious Speech from the Throne, that recommends Frugality, I refer to those who know better than I do the State of such Affairs.

The Burthen my Mind has been long loaded with, and laboured to lay down, I now have gently rid myself of, presuming that I carried it long enough; therefore leave it to the free Choice of any Body to take it up that likes it.

I well know the Consequences of bold Truth-telling in this Iron Age, and that *Falshood* and *Treachery*, conceiving their Honours to be insulted, grossly abused, and ignominiously traduced, will quickly order Punishment to be executed on the Delinquent, that thus daringly and publickly affronts them.

But let the Fiends know, it is not a Coward that has done it, nor a Man born to Slavery, or ignoble Fear, tho' the last Branch of a noble Race, that dared to be loyal in
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the worst of Times. For better Information be it known, that I am ready to shake Hands with Death, as my Friend and Guide, to conduct me to the Sound of the Archangel's Trump summoning me to the Bar of Heaven to testify the indubitable Truths herein contained. Thus prepared for my Journey, I think it necessary to let all be satisfied agreeably to my Religious Profession as a Christian, that I forgive and am in Charity with all Men that have injured me and my Family.

Having but few Friends (Thanks to their H—rs Goodness) I need no great Formality in taking Leave of them. The Bomb-shell being now burst, I think I may be supposed peaceably, if not safely, to retire. So I bid you one and all (as hoping that you now will know how better to provide what is fit for yourselves,) *Farewell.*



I am very sorry to hear of the
 death of your mother. I hope
 you will be able to visit her
 soon. I am very sorry to hear
 of the death of your mother. I
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 her soon. I am very sorry to
 hear of the death of your mother.

